

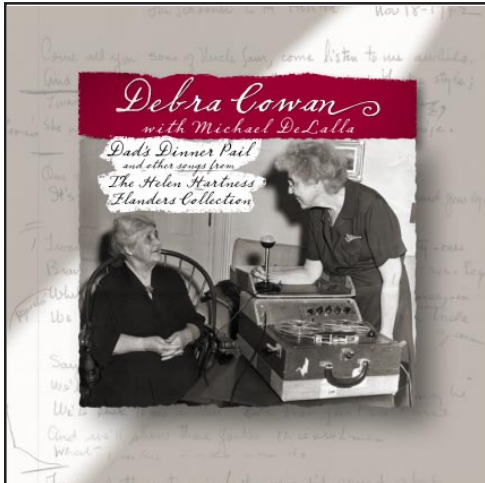


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# Debra Cowan with Michael DeLalla Dad's Dinner Pail and Other Songs From the Helen Hartness Flanders Collection

FM-1044, CD only

Produced by Debra Cowan &  
 Michael DeLalla



## About this Title

Co-produced with composer and guitarist Michael DeLalla, the renowned singer breathes new life into eleven traditional songs from the Flanders Song Collection in an elegant dance with Michael's exquisite guitar settings, always delivered with reverence for the song. *Dad's Dinner Pail* also features Falling Mountaineers Tabby Finch (The Bog Wanderers) on hammered dulcimer and accordion, Chas Fowler (The Unfortunate Rakes) on whistle, and Joe DeZarn (The Bog Wanderers) on fiddle, Ralph Gordon on cello and bass, and guest appearances from acclaimed singer John Roberts (Roberts and Barrand, Nowell Sing We Clear) lending his voice to two hymns, "Fearless In the Fire" and "Star In the East". Highlights include Michael's beautiful guitar arrangements in songs such as "Bold Richard" and Debra's gloriously nested three-part harmony vocals on "The Poor Soldier".

## About the Artist

From the minute she begins to sing, Debra Cowan grabs her audience and doesn't let go. Her ability to communicate the story within the song is rare. Her rich voice conjures images of stony-grey Celtic castles, green and rolling English landscapes, and humorous American urban scenes. Just as the audience is left spellbound after Debra presents a woeful traditional ballad of love gone wrong, she immediately brings laughter with an outrageous comic song. Her love of songs from the British Isles has led her to search out the connections with their North American ancestors and her desire to be true to the song brought her to Edinburgh, Scotland in 1997. While there, Debra studied the performances of that country's finest singers. She was chosen to be a resident musician at Edinburgh's premier folk music pub, Sandy Bell's Bar, following in the footsteps of some of Scottish musicians such as Dick Gaughan and the Wrigley Sisters. Almost ten years later, now based near Worcester, Massachusetts, Debra tours extensively in the USA and United Kingdom.

## Discography

FM-1044     *Dad's Dinner Pail and Other Songs From  
 the Helen Hartness Flanders Collection*, 2005, CD only  
 FM-1036     *The Long Grey Line*             2001, CD only

## The Words of Others

**“features Americanized versions of British ballads ("Bold Richard", "Cruel Brother") and regional originals such as the delightfully sentimental title track. Cowan is a clear-voiced singer who presents these songs with affection and feeling.”**

- Tom Nelligan, *Dirty Linen*

**“...she has a very attractive voice, clean and true.....she can get inside a traditional ballad with conviction, and tell the story convincingly.....this is the material that suits her best, and she soars with it.”**

- Brian Miller, BBC Scotland

# Debra Cowan

## Dad's Dinner Pail

FM-1044, Total Time 48:58

For interviews or other artist relations, please visit the artist page at our website, [www.FallingMountain.com](http://www.FallingMountain.com), for email links and contact info.

To the DJs: These program notes are designed to make it easier to quickly navigate the track information on this CD. We at Falling Mountain Music appreciate you taking the time to review new material and add it to your library, and we hope you enjoy the music.

## PROGRAM NOTES

All songs traditional

### 1. Bold Richard (5:09) - light courting ballad

Debra Cowan: vocals, Michael DeLalla: guitar

*"Bold Richard" is an English ballad also known as "Richard of Taunton Dean" and is a jaunty song about a poor farmer who courts the well-off parson's daughter with little success.*

(Source - Edith Ballinger Price, Newport, RI)

### 2. Walloping Window Blind (3:02) - fanciful uptempo maritime

Debra Cowan: vocals, Michael DeLalla: vocals and guitar, Ralph Gordon: bass

*Originally a poem by Charles Carryl, this song was sung by children in schools at the beginning of the 20th century.*  
(Source - Lena Bourne Fish, East Jaffrey, NH)

### 3. Young Charlotte (4:57) - medium ballad

Debra Cowan: vocals, Michael DeLalla: guitar, Joe DeZarn: fiddle

*I chose this song from Mrs. Scott because Mrs. Flanders collected it in Westborough, MA, a town I lived in from 1999-2004. Until now, I was not familiar with the song, and as I got to know it, I found this to be an interesting story of how harmful pride can be.*

(Source - Mrs. Charles Scott, Westborough, MA)

### 4. Cruel Brother (5:28) - murder ballad

Debra Cowan: vocals, Michael DeLalla: Baroque guitar, Ralph Gordon: cello, Joe DeZarn: fiddle

*Child Ballad #11. One is not certain about the relationship between brother and sister. You may draw your own conclusions.*

(Source - Edith Ballinger Price, Newport, RI)

### 5. Star in the East (1:50) - unaccompanied hymn

Debra Cowan: vocal, John Roberts: vocal

*The words to this hymn were written by Englishman Reginald Heber in 1811. It is also known as "Brightest and Best" and was originally collected and sung by the Ritchie Family.*

(Source - Thomas Armstrong, Moores Fork, NY)

### 6. The Poor Soldier (6:06) - uptempo ballad

Debra Cowan: vocals, Michael DeLalla: guitar, Chas Fowler: whistles

*I used to sing a British version of this song long ago and I was delighted to find this Americanized version in the collection. I always loved the line "The lady held the horse while the soldier fought the battle."*

(Source - Josiah Kennison, Townshend, VT)

### 7. Burly Burly Banks of Barbry-O (6:45) - unaccompanied murder ballad

Debra Cowan: vocals

*First appearing in Scots Magazine in 1803, this ballad is also known as "The Bonnie Banks o Fordie" (Child #14) and "Babylon". This is another murder/incest ballad where the body count is significant.*

(Source - Jonathon Moses, Orford, NH)

### 8. Schooner EA Horton (3:43) - uptempo maritime

Debra Cowan: vocals, Michael DeLalla: guitar and bodhran, Tabby Finch : accordion

*This song, which is native to Massachusetts, is based on the true story of a Gloucester-based fishing vessel captured by the Canadians. An intriguing story about how the Schooner EA Horton was "stolen" back and returned to Massachusetts*

(Source-Albert Howard, Orford, NH)

### 9. In the Town of Oxford (3:28) - medium ballad

Debra Cowan: vocals, Michael DeLalla: guitar

*I first heard a version of this song performed by the wonderful New England singer and songwriter, Lui Collins. Mrs. Flanders writes, "The doleful character of this British ballad is increased by the mournfulness of the tune."*

(Source - Mrs. Ralph Harrington, Bennington, VT)

### 10. Fearless in The Fire (2:44) - unaccompanied hymn

Debra Cowan: vocal, John Roberts: vocal

*Composed by Charles Wesley (1707-1788), this hymn is also known as "Head Of The Church Triumphant".*

(Source-Thomas Armstrong, Moores Fork, NY)

### 11. Dad's Dinner Pail (5:05) - waltz

Debra Cowan: vocals, Michael DeLalla: guitar, Tabby Finch: hammered dulcimer, Ralph Gordon: acoustic bass, Joe DeZarn: fiddle, The All-Weather Heating and Plumbing Chorus: Michael Hudson, Mike Buechner, Chuck Salmon, Michael DeLalla

*Composed for theater audiences in the late 19th century, this song was quite popular and eventually made its way into the oral tradition.*

(Source - Jonathon Moses, Orford, NH) Words by Edward Harrigan, music by Dave Braham, 1883